

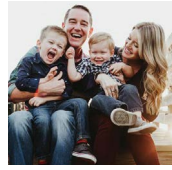


WEEK 3

TOPIC: **PARENTING**

BY: **Trey & Maggie Curry**

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Why do we practice Lent? We do Lent as a way to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It isn't commanded in scripture, but here at Eleven22, we do it because we believe it's beneficial at times to tell our flesh no, so we can tell Jesus yes.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

We, as parents, all have "those" days. You know, those days where your three-year-old won't stop asking why or your one-year-old loses his mind over the fact that you won't let him eat a cookie because he hasn't finished his lunch yet (and this was just our yesterday). There is screaming, tantrum throwing, door slamming, and I'm not just talking about from your kids. With all good intentions, you force your kids to do what you say because you know the Bible says, "Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord" (Colossians 3:20). However, if you were honest, you really want to replace the last part of that verse with, "because it pleases me" or "because if you don't, I'll be embarrassed". But ask yourself, who is the main focus in both of those statements?

We all too often parent out of pride, and even as much as it hurts to admit, a false sense of humility too. Both stem from our insecurities and weaknesses. These are dangerous waters to discipline from, and can turn us into the kind of parents we swore we'd never become. They're the reason we become angry with our kids. They're the reason we become impatient with our kids. They're the reason we choose to provoke our

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kids, even when we feel the motivation comes from “well, the Bible said...”. For the sake of our children, let’s check our hearts, even with the best intentions, and see if our Bible quoting truly is for God’s glory or for ourselves.

We must learn from our Heavenly Father who draws His children to repentance through His kindness. This is why the gospel is so important in our parenting. We must remember that we are kind to our children because God was first kind to us. We must remember that we as the parents are actually the disobedient children, but God, our Heavenly Father, demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners He sent Christ to die for us. We are free to love our kids, because God loved us first. We are kind to our kids in response to the kindness of God toward us.

QUESTIONS

- 1. How do you respond to God’s kindness in the way you treat and respond to your kids?**
 - 2. Do you remind yourself first of your great need for God’s kindness given to you before you do this?**
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FAMILY APPLICATION

(An opportunity for you and your children to practice lent together.)

Pick a Bible verse and memorize it together with your kids. One way we do this is by adding a rhythm to the words. It’s amazing to see how quickly kids can remember a verse after only a few times of saying it.

Spent a few moments in prayer with your kids each day. We focus on what we are thankful for by starting with, “We thank you God for...in Jesus’ name, amen.”

